

Abner Hall House
116 Hope Street
Providence
Providence County
Rhode Island

HABS No. RI-198

HABS
RI,
4-PROV,
98-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. RI-198

ABNER HALL HOUSE

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Address: 116 Hope Street, Providence, Providence County,
Rhode Island.
Plat 16, Lot 216

Present Owner: Mr. and Mrs. Thomas F. Monahan, Providence, Rhode
Island.

Present Occupant: Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Haste on first floor, other
tenant on second floor.

Present Use: Two-family house.

Brief Statement
of Significance: This is a typical example of a small frame house
in Providence built between 1825 and 1828.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners:

- 1825 INDENTURE: Oliver Kane et al, heirs of John I
Clarke, sell to Abner Hall and quit claim to
him a certain piece of land in the Town of
Providence being part of a great lot commonly
called the East Laws Lot to wit: #9 bounded: W
by (59'9") by #10; N 138'4" by #8; E by Hope Street
60'; S by Williams Street 138'4", together with
all the hereditments. . . as surveyed by Benoni
Lockwood in 1825 (Deed Book 51, pages 22/23). .
Deed Book 51, page 57, in Providence City Hall.
- 1828 Abner Hall lived here for first time (cor Williams
and Hope St.) Providence Directory
- 1845 WILL: Abner Hall devises all his property both
real and personal to his wife Clarissa. . . on
her death to daughter Abby wife of Joseph Bradford
. . . Wills Book 15, page 271, in Providence City
Hall.
- 1881 Edward F and Frank W. Bradford sell for \$6225 to
Charles Bliven a certain lot of land with all
buildings at the N/W corner of Hope and William
Streets. . . being the same bequeathed by their
Mother by will in 1880 meaning to convey lot #9
of a plat belonging to the heirs of John I Clark
(Deed Book 51, page 22/23). . . Deed Book 310,
page 516, in Providence City Hall.

- 1921 Property taxed to William F and Abbie E Bowen
- 1926 Property owned by Thomas F. Monahan and wife Catherine and is still owned (1962) by the Monahan family

2. Date of erection: Between 1825 and 1828

Prepared by Antoinette F. Downing and Elvira Gowdey
for the Providence Preservation Society
January 1962

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: Built 1825-1828, this is a typical small frame house, three bays wide, two stories high, with characteristic hip roof with monitor, and arched doorway with banded Gothic colonettes.
2. Condition of fabric: Good

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: Main block, about 27' (three-bay front) x 36', two stories, facing east, large rear wing to northwest.
2. Foundations: Ashlar granite
3. Wall construction: Frame, clapboards, wood quoins
4. Stoops: Granite entrance stoop, seven steps.
5. Chimneys: Two brick chimneys in south wall of main block.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doors and doorways: Six-panel entrance door, elliptical fan and side lights, banded Gothic colonettes. Six-panel rear door on south side of wing.
 - b. Windows and shutters: Six over six light double hung windows, simple molded wood frames, adjustable louvered shutters.

7. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Hip roof with monitor; asphalt shingles.
- b. Cornice: Molded cornice with drilled ovolo bed mold.
- c. Monitor: Low monitor with small windows, three lights wide.

C. Technical Description of Interior

1. Floor plans: Now used as two apartments, one on first and one on second floor, arrangement on each similar. Entrance hall at north side, double connected parlors on south side of main block, small room behind entrance hall (now a bedroom). Kitchen, bedroom, and bath in rear wing.
 2. Stairways: Straight run with 90° turn at the top, open string; molded rail; slender rectangular balusters, three per step; turned newel, carved fan-shaped step end ornaments.
 3. Flooring: Wide board floors on first floor, later strip flooring on second floor.
 4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster, papered or painted.
 5. Doors and doorways: Six-panel doors, flat sunk panels. Complex pilaster trim with bulls'-eye corner blocks.
 6. Trim: Window trim similar to the doors. Wide double doors between parlors.
 7. Hardware: Some early glass knobs, other later porcelain knobs, butt hinges.
 8. Lighting: Electric.
 9. Heating, fireplaces: Central hot air. Fireplaces in parlors. One-story wood mantels with colonettes, deeply projecting molded mantel shelves.
- D. Site: Faces east at northwest corner of Williams and Hope Streets, small level lot, set back only slightly at the front, residential neighborhood.

Prepared by Osmund R. Overby, Architect
National Park Service
January 1962